

The Historian

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

JANUARY 1996

JANUARY MEETING

The January luncheon meeting is set for noon on Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Eastern Star Hall at 601 Bouslog Street opposite the side of the Highway 90 Post Office. Cost of the luncheon is \$5, tax and tip included.

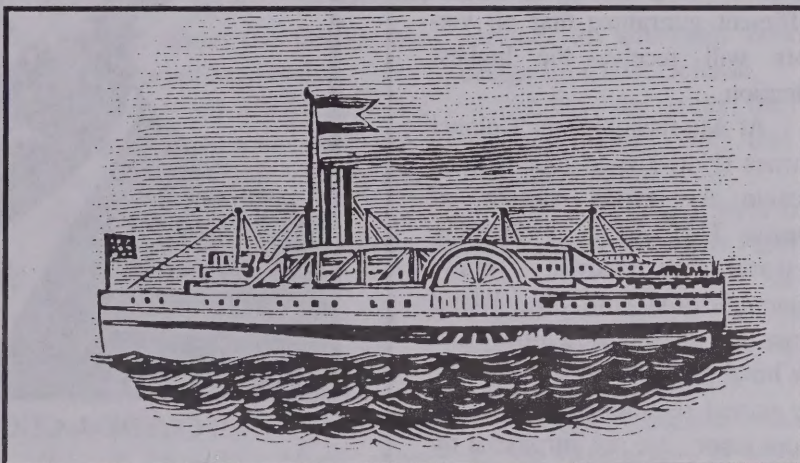
Guest speaker will be Bob Huct, a board member of the Bay Saint Louis Community Association who will discuss the city's proposed Comprehensive Zoning Plan. Please call 467-4090 for reservations no later than Jan 16.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have begun the most incredible year in our history - the new addition is finally contracted, Bay Saint Louis has hired a part-time hostess to work in Lobrano House, the computers are working and we have a wonderful new board to work with. It just doesn't get much better than this.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Tourneon, owners of beautiful Camp Onward have offered to let us show their house during the Spring as a fund-raiser which will allow us to properly furnish the new addition to Lobrano House. Camp Onward will be furnished in antiques of the period of the house and will be shown three or four days

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CIVIL WAR ERA STEAMBOAT

CIVIL WAR DAYS HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY

Compiled and edited by Clyde Cucullu

A recent visit to the Gulf shores Mississippi Sound enables us to say that all dangers and interruptions to the traveling community are removed. The measures taken by General Twiggs to protect the several villages and keep open the communication through the Sound, have been productive of the highest results.

The steamers Oregon and Arrow have been fully armed and fully supplied, to prevent the marauding tenders of old Abe from depredating and thieving on the sea shore. The fort at Ship Island

will prevent any of the larger steamers of the enemy from entering the Sound.

At Bay Saint Louis there is a detachment of troops; at Pass Christian there are two hundred; at Biloxi a detachment; at Pascagoula, two Companies; amply sufficient to prevent the landing of the enemy from launches or barges.

In November we may expect the fleet of gunboats intended to take possession of the lakes, if possible. But there will be something to say on the Southern side, in that respect.

The oyster banks are dis-counting liberally; the fishing banks are taking heavy exchanges; the peaches are delicious
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ious; the grapes are abundant; the bathing excellent; and the sea breezes invigorating.

The hotel at Pascagoula is in ample order and ready for the reception of company. We believe this favorite resort is under the charge of Mr. Gumbel, formerly of the St. Louis Hotel which is sufficient guarantee that all visitors will receive the highest attention.

At Mississippi City Colonel Barnes (Hotel) is in readiness to receive the usual number of guests. This locality is obtaining a world wide renown. Daily communication with Ship Island forms one of the attractions; and the hotel and dependencies, in all the varied requirements of a sea shore resort, are not surpassed by any in the country.

The coast packet, *Creole*, leaves thrice per week for all the villages; and being armed, with fifty men, affords ample protection against Lincoln's picaroons, should the tenders have the temerity to enter the Sound. Communication with Mobile is also open. Some steamer leaves today for Alabama River, going all the way through. Source: N.O. "Daily Crescent" Fri. July 19, 1861.

CLYDE J. CUCULLU 1922 - 1995

The preceding article was the last of the series of "Civil War Days" compiled by Clyde J. Cucullu before his death last November. The chronicles culminated decades of dedication

to history that began as a 12-year-old student at P. A. Capdau School in New Orleans.

In 1934, the young Clyde won a nationwide contest with his 600-word history of the United States. The sponsors of the contest, the Rushmore Memorial Competition invited elementary, high school and college students to submit a history to be used as a dedication of the Mount Rushmore Monument. Clyde won the elementary school prize of \$250 and a trip to Washington, D.C.

"He was always interested in history and was a natural born writer," said his brother Irwin, a history buff in his own right and a staunch supporter with wife Patt of our Society. Indeed, Patt has served for twenty years on our board.



CLYDE J. CUCULLU 1922 - 1995

Every family has one member who cherishes the stories passed down by the older generation. Clyde's enthusiasm led him to hours of library research and the publication of a "basic genealogy" of his family in 1962, and between then and 1983 his *History and Genealogy of the Cucullu Family in North America*, a meticulously researched chronicle of his ancestors from 1769 through 1860. He concludes with the comment that subsequent history of the Cucullus is left to future generations.

The Cucullu family, from Plencia, a village in the province of Viscaya, Spain, were Basques, whose name, dating to the Roman Empire, derives from the Latin *cucullus*, meaning a hood or
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cowl, perhaps for the hood-shaped mountain overlooking the town.

Manuel Simon de Cucullu, Sr., a Spanish naval officer, visited Louisiana in 1769 with General Alexander O'Reilly and 2,000 soldiers sent to quell an insurrection of French patriots who refused to accept Spanish rule. He returned to Plencia, but his son, Manuel Simon de Cucullu, Jr., came to New Orleans in 1793 and settled in New Galvez in St. Bernard Parish. By 1805, Cucullu and his wife, Marie Modeste de St. Germain and their growing family, had two plantations in St. Bernard Parish and several properties in the French Quarter of New Orleans, one of them the family home at 117 Barracks Street, now the Maison Hospitaliere, a home for the elderly. Manuel and his sons prospered as merchants, shipowners and planters.

The first link with Mississippi came when Marie Modeste bought a home at the present site of Memorial Park in Pass Christian after the death of her husband in 1833. In the following years, generations of Cucullus visited the Coast on holidays and to escape yellow fever epidemics in the city.

Clyde maintained a summer home in Pass Christian which he sold before Hurricane Betsy destroyed it. He bought a home at 117 Felicity Street in Bay St. Louis where he lived after his retirement about eight year ago.

Edith Back

1996 DUES ARE DUE

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

On Sunday, Feb. 11, we are invited to join the Pass Christian Historical Society at their dinner meeting at the Pass Christian Yacht Club.

Featured speaker will be historian Stephen Ambrose who will discuss his book *Undaunted Courage*, about the famous explorer Meriwether Lewis.

A cash bar will be available at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the Ambrose presentation.

Tickets at \$10 are available at Lobrano House.

PRESIDENT from page 1

a week, probably from March 15 through April 15. Much more about this opportunity will be discussed but be warned, we are again looking for your help to doing this show. If only we can duplicate our success at La Marin last August, we will have reason for great celebration and will have a wonderfully furnished facility where we can hold such celebrations.

The ladies of the Society decorated a great Christmas tree which was displayed at the Library in December. The tree had ornaments handmade by the ladies and was a delight for all who saw it. Thanks to those of you who worked on it.

Construction on our new room will begin in the next few days. The contractor says that we will be able to continue normal operations during construction.

Charles H. Gray

HANCOCK COUNTY OFFERS WARSHIPS

To the Editors of the Daily Picayune, Aug. 1, 1861:

Capt. Poitevent, of Gainesville in this county, and well known in your city as an enterprising steamboatman, of ample means, has made a model for a gunboat, now on its way to Richmond and Jackson, an admirably contrived design for Coast Defense.

We have the timber, the mills, the boat yards, docks and ship carpenters, all on hand.

It may not be generally known at both those places on Pearl River we are constantly building steamboats and schooners of the best live oak, cypress, yellow pine, white oak and cedar.

Let the Confederate authorities say the word and by or before the first of January, Pearlington and Gainesville will fit out and complete any number of gunboats that may be needed.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MON. 8 to 4 or by
TUE. 8 to 4 appointment
THU. 8 to 4

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Hancock County Historical Society

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